

COVID-19
Rapid Response and Recovery Fund



OAK PARK-RIVER FOREST
Community Foundation

**Philanthropist Couple Issues \$250,000 Matching Challenge
to Support Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation
Rapid Response and Recovery Fund**

OAK PARK, IL (MAY 4, 2020) — The Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation is pleased to announce that Ken and Patty Hunt, longtime Oak Park residents, have offered a \$250,000 matching challenge grant to encourage additional donations toward the Foundation's **Rapid Response and Recovery Fund**.

As COVID-19 began to impact communities throughout Illinois and the nation, the Foundation established its Rapid Response and Recovery Fund in March with a \$50,000 seed investment, and pledged to match all donations up to an additional \$100,000. By the end of April, the fund had grown to \$260,000 as the Foundation released its first round of relief grants to area organizations that are mobilizing services and resources to aid vulnerable local populations affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The Foundation has consistently supported and strengthened our communities for decades. Their commitment to individuals and organizations is inspiring,” said Patty Hunt. “In turn, we want to offer our support during these challenging times, and hope others are inspired to do the same as the Foundation responds to the demands of this global health crisis.”

The matching challenge grant will go directly to the Rapid Response and Recovery Fund, and the Hunts will match donations, dollar for dollar, up to \$250,000.

“We are grateful to the Hunts for the generosity and care they have expressed by offering this challenge, and we remain committed to helping organizations who are stretched to their limits in providing help to at-risk populations such as the elderly, the socio-economically disadvantaged and those with health challenges,” said Foundation President and CEO Tony Martinez, Jr.

The first round of the Fund's grants was awarded April 20. Recipients included the African American Christian Foundation, Beyond Hunger, Housing Forward, Leyden Family Services, New Moms, Oak Leyden Developmental Services, Sarah's Inn, SisterHouse, Thrive Counseling Center, Wednesday Journal/Growing Community Media and West Cook YMCA.

(continued)

Individuals, families and groups interested in donating to the OPRFCF Rapid Response and Recover Fund and meeting the Hunt's challenge can visit <https://www.oprfcf.org/rapidresponse-recovery-fund> or contact Senior Philanthropic Advisor Rhea Yap at ryap@oprfcf.org.

Organizations serving Oak Park, River Forest and adjacent communities that are interested in learning more about Rapid Response and Recovery grants should contact Program Director Elizabeth Chadri at echadri@oprfcf.org. Current grant focus areas include food, shelter and rental assistance, mental health, and physical and emotional safety for our most vulnerable populations. Grants will continue to be distributed on a rolling basis as long as funding remains available.

About the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation

Founded in 1959, The Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation has built lasting, impactful connections among area residents and locally-based service programs. Today as an integral presence in the community, the Foundation focuses on helping its donors identify and achieve their long-term philanthropic goals, and providing grants and leadership support to organizations working to effect positive change in Oak Park, River Forest and surrounding neighborhoods. Learn more about the Foundation's programs and services online at oprfcf.org.